

IN THE CLAIMS:

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1. (Amended) Snaffle bit (1) for horses or mules,  
[consisting of] comprising a mouthpiece (2), which can be placed  
between the upper and lower jaws and extends crosswise through  
the mouth, which mouthpiece has a through-opening (7) at each of  
its two ends projecting out from the sides of the mouth, each  
opening carrying a ring (3) for the attachment of a rein or a  
line[, etc., characterized in that] wherein the mouthpiece (2)  
[is designed with] has the shape of an outward-curved or outward-  
angled bow extending across the tongue (15) and lower jaw (14).

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2. (Delete)

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cont.  
3. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to Claim 1 [or Claim 2],  
wherein [characterized in that] the bow shape of the mouthpiece  
(2) is located on a plane extending approximately perpendicular  
to the through-openings (7). C

4. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to [one of Claims 1-3]  
claim 1, wherein [characterized in that] the mouthpiece (2)  
consists of several parts.

5. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to Claim 4,

[characterized in that] wherein the mouthpiece (2) [consists] is comprised of two side parts (5, 6) [,] which are connected by a joint (4), [which] wherein the joint (4) can pivot around an axis approximately perpendicular to the plane.

6. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 5 [one of Claims 3-5], wherein [characterized in that] the joint (4) is located approximately in the center of the mouthpiece (2).

7. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to Claim 5 [or Claim 6], wherein [characterized in that] a pin (13) passes through [the] ends of the side parts (5, 6) which form the joint (4), the pin being held in place [in the] at an end of [the] one of the two side parts (5, 6) which forms [the] a joint fork (11).

8. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1 [one of Claims 1-7], wherein [characterized in that the] a cross section of the mouthpiece (2) is approximately circular and/or elliptical.

9. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1 [one of Claims 1-8], wherein [characterized in that] the mouthpiece (2) is made of a non-oxidizing material [such as steel].

A17  
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10. (Amended) Snaffle bit according to claim 1 [one of Claims 1-9], wherein characterized in that pivot bearing sockets (8), which project out from at least one side of the through-openings (7) and which represent extensions of these openings, are provided on [the] free ends of the mouthpiece (2), perpendicular to or at an angle of 900 to the plane formed by the bow shape.

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11. (New) Snaffle bit according to Claim 9, wherein the non-oxidizing material is steel.

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